

REMARKS

1. Claims 12-16 are cancelled without traverse, pursuant to the telephone election cited in the office action.
2. Applicant takes notice of Draftperson's Drawing Review. One sheet of amended drawings is enclosed, and red-line corrections are also included showing changes made. Specifically, a numbering error was corrected in Fig. 3B. The numbering error referenced by Examiner was corrected by an amendment to the specification.
3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. The term "gauge" is that of the specification, and the drawings illustrate one embodiment of the device. Applicant respectfully submits that the term is not indefinite as described in the specification, and the claims should be allowed in light of the current clarification.
4. Claims 1, 4, and 17 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Modlin et al., U.S. 6,173,609. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over Modlin in view of Kataoka et al., U.S. 5,859,365. The claims were amended in light of Examiner's rejections, and should place the application in condition for allowance.
5. Claims 2, 3, and 6-11 were objected to as dependent upon rejected base claims, and should now be in condition for allowance.
6. A petition and fee for extension of time in the present response of 1 month is enclosed herewith. Therefore this amendment is timely filed as of the date of deposit shown below.
7. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 1, 3-11, 17, and 19, as the above amendment has placed these claims into condition for allowance.

8. There being now 3 independent claims and 12 total claims in the application, no further fees for additional claims are required.
9. In closing, I wish to express my appreciation for your kind consideration and helpful comments.

Respectfully submitted,


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Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents at 703-872-9306 on 4-18-05 date of deposit.

Signature: 
Eric Karich